

**CITY OF FORT COLLINS  
FUTURES COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Date:** October 11, 2021

**Location:** Colorado River Room, Zoom

**Time:** 4:00-6:00pm

**Committee Members present:**

Mayor Jeni Arndt

Councilmember Susan Gutowsky (District 1)

Councilmember Emily Francis (District 6)

**Additional Council members present:**

**City Staff:**

Jackie Kozak-Thiel

Kelly DiMartino, Interim City Manager

**Presenters:**

*Patti Schmitt, Director of the Family Leadership Training Institute (FLTI) at CSU Extension, David MacPhee, CSU Prevention Research Center, Meaghan Overton, Housing Program Manager, City of Fort Collins, Ed Morrison, Director of Agile Strategy Lab at Northern Alabama University*

**Additional Staff present:**

Carrie Daggett, City Attorney

Kyle Stannert, City Manager's Office

Teresa Roche, Human Resources

Michelle Finchum, Environmental Services

Kevin Wilkins, IT

Claudia Menendez, City Manager's Office

Caryn Champine, PDT

Cassie Archuleta, Environmental Services

Karen Burke, Human Resources

Terri Runyan, City Manager's Office

Rebecca Everette, CDNS

**Community members:**

Catherine Leavitt, community member

Carrie Van Horn, community member and graphic recorder

Joe, community member

**Meeting called to order at 4:05pm**

**Approval of Minutes:**

Councilmember Susan Gutowsky moved to approve the September 13 minutes. Councilmember Francis seconded. Motion passed unanimously. 2-0-1.

**Chairman Comments:** None

**Summary**

- Presenters began with CSU's land acknowledgement and were thanked for doing so. The City is working on crafting a land acknowledgement and recognize that local government to tribal relations are very important

- The Future of Civic Capacity and building Civic Economy is critical to the future of collaboration with our community
  - Civic Capacity Index can help to identify what factors speed up the ability to collaborate and what things may slow it down.
- Civic Capacity was linked to challenges such as the pandemic and the ability for communities to be resilient
  - There is a need to consider how to invest in community now to be able to address challenges in the future
- Civic economy recognizes community at the center—how to shift language from brining community to the table to having community set the table
- Data and the Civic Capacity Index show why having strong Civic Capacity matters—there is a direct correlation to health and health equity
- Action: Continue to make investments in things of the Future
  - Invest in language justice and local translators and interpreters
  - Invest in civic capacity

Consider where we are now and where we need to

### **Think Tank Item 5-2021 Future of Civic Capacity in Fort Collins: Conditions for Emergence and a Civic Economy**

*Dr. David MacPhee kicks off the panel with a discussion of Civic Capacity Index and how it relates to resilience*

- Civic Capacity is a research-based measure of community capacity to respond to challenges such as COVID, hurricanes, floods, etc.
- The 6 measures of Civic Capacity that are measured are:
  - Leadership
  - Inclusion
  - Institutions
  - Civic Culture
  - Coalitions
  - Collaboration
- Civic Capacity is important for several reasons including:
  - Civic capacity index related to death rates- March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020- 2021
  - Lower cases and death rates the higher the community resilience

*Meaghan Overton, City of Fort Collins shares about the Home 2 Health (H2H) project as a practical example of building Civic Capacity*

- H2H was a 2-year grant awarded through Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE)— partnerships and been built through City Plan update process and H2H scaled these partnerships up to allow City and community partners to continue to work on housing affordability and health equity.
- Community engagement was done differently than it ever had done before:
  - centered lived experience from people experiencing housing challenges—connecting stories to policies—build policy from experiences.
- A shared leadership model was developed and utilized strategic doing
- At the end of the grant everything was wrapped up with community summit to bring groups of people together and have a deliberative dialogue rooted in language justice

- H2H leaned into the spirit of adventure and curiosity and experimentation in doing this work
- It was really important to be transparent about challenges and adapt program as needs of people change
  - Transparency is critical to creating opportunities for conversation—if not transparent in how ideas inform practice—sense of accountability is lost.
- Policies and engagement that came from H2H include:
  - Example inclusionary zoning and others
  - Start process of updating LUC
  - Development of HSP was supported by H2H work

*Patti Schmitt discusses the importance of the Civic Capacity Index and building Civic Capacity*

- A survey was created for H2H using civic capacity index to see where people felt the community civic capacity was and how did it increase people's understanding in housing affordability issues and their ability to engage in the process
  - A major challenge to building community is inclusion
  - In the survey people who responded did feel like the City helped. Not everyone necessarily agreed on the end result – but people felt invited and included to participate in the discussion
- Civic Capacity Index provides an opportunity to understand inclusion and consider how to build a bridge our background differences.
  - Now is the time to think about civic capacity or muscle you have in community and how to invest in community
  - Civic capacity won't be there unless you invest in it
    - Community catalyst workers
    - Content experts need training on how to provide a role for community.
      - Allow group/community to provide path for us.
    - Consider when do we let community lead?
      - Let community identify priorities or decide where to spend money
- Culture of collaboration—ability to think about how we work together and respond to challenges

*Ed Morrison, creator of Strategic doing builds off of the conversation to discuss what it means to invest in and build our Civic Economy*

- It is time to consider what the opportunity is for Fort Collins to be a leader in this space
- Nationally it is important to think about how to rebuild our economies and more beyond just the market economy:
  - Market economy = investments and opportunities that are publicly valuable and privately profitable
  - Civic economy = investments and opportunities that are publicly valuable and not privately profitable
- Civic Economy drives the market economy which is why it is important to invest in it
- What is needed to build Civic Economy?
  - Shared and collective leadership
  - Position self on boundary of market and civic economy
    - Utilize civic capacity index to help to build leadership capacity in our communities
  - Collaboration: Ingenuity comes when we collaborate

- Teach these skills to anybody
  - New habits of thinking and doing things together
- Planting seeds now will grow into trees of the future
- Now is the time to lean in on new models

### **Discussion**

- Discussion around language justice and the importance of it—different languages provide nuance/experience and concepts that were never thought about. Language justice not just about accommodating people but also about learning.
- Consider content and context experts: if we can't acknowledge different experiences than it can prohibit community capacity building
- Consider how city-led projects if we are thinking about the cost associated with doing inclusive engagement
- Discussion around investing in things of the Future
  - Invest in language justice
  - Invest in civic capacity
  - Consider where we are now and where we need to head
  - Invest in local translators and interpreters
- Building social capacity and a sense of belonging is key to building resilience—need to build social connectiveness- direct correlation to health and health equity
- Thinking about the power of many languages—each language presents knowledge
- Strategic doing is a visual language that helps to bridge cultural divides

### **Additional Items**

- Kyle Stannert, Deputy City Manager, and Caryn Champine, Director of Planning, Development and Transportation, are participating in a leaders learning cohorts as part of the Mayor's Bloomberg program.
- There was a question posed by a community member about what 100% electrification looks like if technology hasn't caught up to vision?
  - Jackie shares that this is something to explore about alternative scenarios when we look to the Future.

### **Additional Discussion:**

- Discussion on upcoming topics

*Meeting adjourned by Mayor Arndt at 5:52pm*

